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Title: TB among prisoners in Romania, 2009-2011

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Body: Background: The prisoners are one of the vulnerable TB groups because of their living conditions. Aim: To study the profile of inmates with TB in Romania during 2009-2011, on the demographics and clinical data, associated diseases, the bacteriological confirmation and drug resistance. Method: Descriptive study of demographic and clinical characteristics of TB among inmates cases notified in prisons in Romania in 2009-2011. Data and information have been extracted from electronic National TB Register. The TB cases registered in counties and then transferred in prison, were not included. Results: a total number of 477 cases was registered in prisons, between 2009-2011: 174 in 2009, 155 in 2010 and 148 in 2011. The global incidence was 630.4‰ in 2009, 544.3‰ in 2010 and 485.3‰ in 2011, compared with the global incidence in general population: 99.4‰ in 2009, 90.1‰ in 2010 and 82.6‰ in 2011. 464(97.3%) were men; 13 (2.7%)—women. 267(56%) were from urban and 210- (44.0%)-from rural area. In 2009 161(92,5%) cases had pulmonary and 13(7.5%)-extrapulmonary TB; in 2010: 138(89%) had pulmonary and 17(11.0%)-extrapulmonary TB; in 2011: 133(89,9%) had pulmonary and 15(10.1%)-extrapulmonary TB. 2 cases had HIV-TB in 2009; 5 - in 2010 and 4 - in 2011. 6 cases had MDR TB: 3 in 2009, 1 in 2010 and 2 in 2011. The success rate among new pulmonary smear positive cases was 82.1% in 2009, 68.4% in 2010 and 55.8% in 2011. Conclusions: Prisoners are vulnerable group for TB, mainly because of crowded space; the incidence among prisoners is about 6 times higher than in general population; TB control network in penitentiary has to take appropriate measures to limit the transmission among inmates and to treat them correctly and completely.